

## **ESSC PROJECT STATUS - August 23, 2007**

The Enterprise Systems Services Centers (ESSC) Project is in its early stages but some meaningful progress is being made on some very important tasks. To add perspective, realize that the ESSC project was authorized, and the \$14.5 million appropriated, under the construction portion of HB4, although about \$2 million was identified for non-construction costs. DOA Architecture & Engineering (A&E) Division is responsible for all construction projects and the ESSC is being managed under their policies and procedures with extensive involvement by ITSD.

Briefly, A&E operates under "construction" law which differs somewhat from the Title 18 procurement law we're most familiar with. The process begins with A&E issuing a solicitation for proposals from architectural firms interested in being contracted for design and ongoing construction management services. That solicitation went out in the first week of July and 14 proposals were received by the due date of July 27. From those a short list of five proposals was developed and interviews have been scheduled with the teams involved for the second week in September. The teams to be interviewed all have firms that have extensive experience specific to the design of data centers, as well as architecture and engineering firms that would be familiar to a great many of you. In accordance with construction law, A&E and ITSD will identify three qualified firms for a selection by the DOA Director. Contract negotiations will then ensue and it is our expectation that a firm will be onboard by mid-October.

Other activities/matters of interest include:

- An "ESSC Stakeholder Committee" has been proposed and is being finalized. Its role will be to provide a non-ITSD perspective at a management and policy level pertaining to the ESSC. Multiple agencies will be included as well as other branches of government.
- The design process will involve a requirements definition process. Though the exact process will depend on the design firm's methodology, we will be involving technical personnel in that process to benefit from their experience and to establish a sense of ownership in the end result. These technical personnel will represent areas of ITSD **AND** the agency community. Obviously, not everyone can be an active participant. However, it is our hope that everyone will believe that their interests and needs will be represented and considered in the design.
- ITSD and A&E recently traveled to Eastern Montana to begin identification of possible sites for the Eastern Montana ESSC. The objective is to identify both the Eastern and Helena sites, or at least short lists for each, prior to the design firm coming onboard. This will allow them to move forward more quickly and also to focus on the design more than site selection.
- ITSD has taken the initial steps to formalize the ESSC Project within ITSD with fulltime staff. Mike Boyer is heading the ESSC team and has moved to the

Arcade Building. Mike Krings has also joined the team. Additional project team members will be announced as needed.

If you have any questions feel free to contact Mike Boyer by email or at x3279.